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ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL JURISPRUDENCE. By John Cassan Wait. New York: John Wiley & Sons. 1897. pp. lxxx, 905.

This book of Mr. Wait's is a systematic treatise upon a branch of the law which is to-day of great practical importance. After a statement of the general principles of contract, it takes up a construction contract from the time that bids are advertised for until the contract is performed or broken. The rights and liabilities of engineers and architects are then carefully considered. The treatment of agreements for arbitration, arbitration as a condition precedent, and allied topics is very complete. A strong argument, and a sound one, as it would seem, is made for the validity of agreements for arbitration, and their practical utility is clearly shown. The chapter on the employment of engineers and architects as expert witnesses is especially commended to the careful consideration of all those who act in the capacity of experts, or have occasion to employ them. The authorities on the topics treated have evidently been carefully examined, and the principal ones cited, reference being made to standard text-books where others are collected. The plan of the work is excellent, and the statements of the law are in the main accurate. In § 184, however, the decision of *Great Northern Ry. Co. v. Witham*, L. R. 9 C. P. 16, appears to be misconceived. And in § 95 it seems to be laid down that a revocation of a letter of acceptance already mailed will prevent a contract being formed if it reaches the offerer before, or at the same time as, the acceptance. It is doubtful if this represents the law. See Anson on Contracts, 6th ed. 25.

The chief fault—an example of which is to be found in almost every chapter in the book—is the lack of logical arrangement of the matter within the chapters. Sections are placed where they do not belong, and sentences and paragraphs are frequently found in sections with which they have no logical connection. This makes it extremely difficult to follow the reasoning, and get a clear conception of the whole subject. Grammatical and typographical errors, and words improperly used, are numerous. It may even be doubted if the use of the word “jurisprudence” in the title is a correct use of the term. See Holland on Jurisprudence, 8th ed. 4. The word, however, has been thus misapplied so long in various branches of the law that it may be said to have acquired a prescriptive right to be so used.

J. H. F.

TAYLOR'S MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE. Twelfth American Edition. Edited by Clark Bell, LL.D. New York and Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co. 1897. pp. xvi, 832.

This latest edition of a work widely and favorably known to the two professions of law and medicine has brought the subject of medical jurisprudence thoroughly and comprehensively up to date. The book is of more general interest, perhaps, to the physician than the lawyer, yet to the latter, trying a case depending on or involving matters connected with medicine or surgery, it must prove of great service. The entire common ground of the two sciences is apparently covered. The general nature of the book, and its comprehensive treatment of the various ways in which the science of medicine may aid legal investigation, are too well known to require fresh comment. Mr. Clark has continued along the lines adopted in the eleventh American edition, and has increased the practical value of the book to lawyers by citing nearly seven hundred cases and authorities bearing on the subject.

R. L. R.